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April 14, 2015

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

REQUEST TO APPROVE THE LA-RICS AUTHORITY CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN (ALL DISTRICTS) (3 VOTES)

SUBJECT

Recommendation for approval of Corrective Action Plan allowing for 29 County owned, operated, or controlled sites to be used as Long Term Evolution (LTE) telecommunications site as part of the Los Angeles Regional Interoperable Communications System (LA-RICS) Authority's LTE System.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:

1. Approve the LA-RICS Authority's Corrective Action Plan (CAP) permitting construction of Long Term Evolution (LTE) infrastructure at a smaller number of County owned, operated, or controlled sites, as identified in the LA-RICS Authority's CAP; and authorize construction to begin or continue at those County owned, operated or controlled sites, as set forth in the LA-RICS Authority's CAP.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

The purpose of the recommended action is to allow for a smaller number of County owned, operated, and controlled sites be used as LTE telecommunications site as part of the LA-RICS LTE System. If the Board approves the CAP, it is agreeing to allow construction to proceed forward at the 29 Los Angeles County owned, operated, and controlled sites. Approval of the CAP by the Board will also allow for a condition to be met as set by the federal grantor, to allow for the current grant suspension to be lifted.

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Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The proposed CAP supports the Countywide Strategic Plan Goal of Operational Effectiveness (Goal 1). If the CAP is approved by the Board and the grant suspension is lifted, the LA-RICS Authority will be in a position to develop a modern public safety communication system that will maximize the effectiveness of processes, structure, and operations to support the timely delivery of customer-oriented and efficient public services, particularly in the areas of public safety.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

Design, construction, equipment purchase and implementation of the LTE System is covered by the BTOP grant, including a 20% required match, made up of 10% in-kind match and 10% cash match paid for by the LA-RICS Authority.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

As your Board is aware, the National Telecommunications Information Administration (NTIA) issued a suspension notice to the LA-RICS Authority on April 3, 2015 suspending the BTOP grant for the LA-RICS LTE project. The suspension notice required that all LTE project work stop immediately, except for specified items called out in the letter. As part of that suspension notice, the NTIA also required a CAP be submitted on April 13, 2015, that contains a revised LTE deployment plan for consideration by NTIA. That revised deployment plan must also receive approval by the Board of Supervisors prior to NTIA's release of any BTOP suspension.

The revised LTE deployment plan now has, as its baseline plan, 49 sites, of which 46 are LTE sites and three (3) are microwave backhaul sites. Of the core 49 site baseline plan, 29 are Los Angeles County owned, operated, or controlled sites. No County fire stations have been included in the baseline plan. Of the 29 County owned, operated, or controlled sites, 20 are LA County Sheriff sites, 4 are County hospitals or rehabilitation facilities, 4 are existing ISD telecommunications sites, and the Fire Command and Control Facility (FCCF) is included as well. All 29 County owned, operated, or controlled sites are existing telecommunications transmitter sites. The remaining 20 sites of the 49 site baseline plan, are located in independent cities that have provided, or are in the process of providing, the LA-RICS Authority with site access agreements for those independent city sites.

LA-RICS staff will continue to conduct public outreach meetings, as requested by the Board at the March 24, 2015 Board meeting, including conducting regional outreach meetings. The public outreach will be tailored towards the remaining sites in the baseline plan.

Given that the baseline plan includes County owned, operated, or controlled sites, the NTIA is requiring that the Board approve the CAP baseline plan, before it lifts any suspension of the BTOP grant for the LTE project. If the Board approves the CAP, it is agreeing to allow construction to proceed forward at the 29 Los Angeles County owned, operated, and controlled sites.

The CAP also provides for additional options, if feasible, to allow for 15 State of California sites to be used to locate temporary cell on wheels (COWS) to improve coverage within those locations. The LA-RICS Authority staff is currently working with State representatives on that effort. If those sites can be used to house COWS, coverage will be improved.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

The LA-RICS Authority, as the lead agency, and the County, have already determined that design, construction, implementation, operation and maintenance of the LTE System at these sites, are statutorily exempt under Public Resources Code section 21080.25, the statutory CEQA exemption adopted specifically for LA-RICS. This action is within the scope of the original determinations.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

There will be no compromise of public safety missions or disruption of vital, existing communication services.

Respectfully submitted,


Sachi A. Hamai
Interim Chief Executive Officer

SAH:JJ:GH
TM:cc

c: Executive Office, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel
Sheriff
Fire
Internal Services
LA-RICS